

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Legislative Counsel

DATE: 15 MAY 1956

FROM : Director of Security

SUBJECT: Government Commission on Security

1. On 11 May 1956 Mr. Donegan called a meeting of the Personnel Security Advisory Committee. Security representatives from the IAC agencies were present. The following problems were discussed at this meeting, but are as yet not resolved:

a. The question as to whether representatives of the Government Commission on Security will be permitted to review security files in the agency or department concerned or whether the security files will be sent to the Commission offices, or whether a summary of the security file will be forwarded.

It was indicated that the Government Commission on Security will not be satisfied with a summary of the security file but will want to have available the investigative reports on file. Mr. Donegan appeared to be inclined to the furnishing of investigative reports to the Commission representatives.

b. Whether FBI reports may be sent by the agencies or departments to the Government Commission on Security.

It was indicated that the FBI would probably not object in Category I type investigations which concern investigative-type reports disseminated by the Bureau to departments and agencies concerned. In Category II cases, which contain confidential informant information from Bureau sources, it was indicated that such reports will probably be referred to Mr. Donegan for decision.

c. Most of the IAC agencies have their own investigative facilities and the security representatives of those agencies were requested to report their attitude in the furnishing of security investigative information to the Commission. It appeared that CIA was not included in this request. Consequently, no decision by this Agency is requested at this time.

d. The Government Commission on Security is considered to be a Commission which for the legislative arm will conduct inquiries for consideration of legislative action. On this premise its inquiries of executive departments and agencies for investigative material would presumably be in conflict with the executive order which prohibits the forwarding of such information to Congressional committees. This matter has been referred to the Attorney General for a decision.

e. Mr. Donegan stated that it is important that no department or agency make available to the Commission information or files which have not been first coordinated with Mr. Donegan. The purpose of this request was to make certain that an agency or department, by unilateral action, will not set a precedent with the Commission which may be binding upon the other departments in their dealings with the Commission. Until such time as Mr. Donegan can establish policies in this regard, he requests coordination on these requests.

f. Mr. Donegan has under consideration the third agency rule and is endeavoring to work out a policy as to how investigative reports or intelligence information will be handled under this rule.

g. Mr. Donegan reported that the Government Commission on Security has been making informational requests covering a wide range of topics and their interests are not restricted to investigative-type cases. Examples cited in this regard are as follows:

(1) AEC was requested to furnish information on the organizational establishment of the Manhattan Engineering District.

(2) A request was made of AEC for the transcript of the Oppenheimer case.

(3) The Commerce Department was asked for data on the Condon case.

(4) The Yarmolinsky report was reviewed by the Commission and they have requested each department having a case cited in that report to submit a report to the Commission on those cases. No CIA case was mentioned in the Yarmolinsky report.

(5) Civil Service Commission was asked to furnish a copy of its organizational and functional chart.

(6) Various agencies have been asked for copies of their regulations, organization and functions.

(7) The Security Office representative reported that it was his feeling that this Agency is regarded as somewhat of an exception to the standard rules applying to the other departments and agencies, but that informational requests from the Commission be coordinated with Mr. Donegan for appropriate guidance and coordination.

[Redacted Signature]

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